



EAGLE

Wildlife Law

Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ **21 wildlife traffickers arrested in 5 countries**
- ✓ **6 significant ivory traffickers arrested with more than 10 kg of ivory in Congo**
- ✓ **2 significant traffickers arrested in Uganda with 135 kg of hippo teeth and two elephant tusks**
- ✓ **4 ivory traffickers arrested in Gabon in 3 different operations**
- ✓ **5 pangolin traffickers arrested in Uganda in 2 operations**
- ✓ **3 wildlife traffickers arrested with 2 pelicans and 11 more birds in Senegal**
- ✓ **2 ivory traffickers arrested in Congo with 35 kg of ivory sentenced to 3 years in prison**
- ✓ **A trafficker arrested with of 13 kg of ivory, 17 kg of pangolin scales and other contraband in Uganda sentenced to 1 year in prison**

Summary

21 wildlife traffickers were arrested in 5 countries this month.

6 significant ivory traffickers were arrested in Congo with a tusk weighting more than 10 kg. The ring of traffickers of various nationalities including Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali with connections to other countries was crushed in a well organized series of arrests. The ring had several tentacles, covering a large area of operation. One member operated in Angola, another in Point-Noire, and several of them organized trafficking the ivory between Congo and DRC, from where the ivory originated.

2 significant traffickers were arrested in Uganda with 135 kg of hippo teeth and two elephant tusks. They both are long term criminals, trafficking ivory and other contraband for years. For the last 5 years they worked as a team, collecting and storing the hippo and elephant ivory in their village. They emptied their storage for this transaction as they were planning to move their illegal activities to Kenya.

2 significant traffickers were arrested in Uganda with 135 kg of hippo teeth and two elephant tusks.



4 ivory traffickers were arrested in Gabon in 3 different operations. 2 ivory traffickers were arrested with 3 tusks in the east of the country. One of them, a Chadian, is a repeat offender, who had already been arrested by PALF in Congo for ivory trafficking in 2013 and sentenced 5 years. Only 24 hours earlier in the same region another ivory trafficker was arrested with two elephant tails. A Nigerian trafficker was arrested with 2 tusks and a fresh leopard skin in the north-east of the country, which is known as a cross-road for trafficking wildlife contraband.

A trafficker arrested with giant pangolin scales in Uganda. He is a member of a ring trafficking live pan-

golins and their scales as well as gold. He uses dealing in cereals, beans and maize as a cover to traffic wildlife products. 4 wildlife traffickers arrested with a giant pangolin.

2 ivory traffickers, arrested in September with 35 kg of ivory in Congo, were sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay over 6,000 USD on penalties and fines each. In Uganda, one of the 3 traffickers arrested with ivory and pangolin scales in October was sentenced to 1 year in prison. The two others, both pastors using the church activities to cover wildlife trafficking, still wait for the court decision.

Cameroon – LAGA

- Four airport officials arrested by customs over the illegal export of 680 kg of pangolin scales about to be smuggled to Malaysia by a trafficking network based at the airport. LAGA provided technical advice, legal and media assistance to customs of the anti trafficking unit that carried out the operation. The first official was arrested immediately after the scales that was about to be loaded on board an Ethiopian airline flight at the Nsimalen International Airport was found to be illegal and it was discovered that fake documents had been used by the traffickers. Investigations which are ongoing would later uncover the network with three others arrested. LAGA continues to assist the airport anti trafficking unit and the gendarmerie investigating the matter.
- The Deputy Director attended a meeting at the residence of the US Ambassador that focused on introducing the new Central African Institute that shall be based in Cameroon hosted by the University of California.
- The Director arrived the country for a three-day working visit and held several meetings with management and other team members.
- The Deputy Director held a meeting with the Mentor PoP fellows on preparations for the upcoming World Pangolin Day.
- A super volunteer finished his training and left for Kenya where he continued his training programme.
- Several meetings were held by Head of the Legal Department or some legal advisers with different state counsels.



Four airport officials arrested by customs over the illegal export of 680 kg of pangolin scales

Congo – PALF

- 6 significant ivory traffickers arrested with a tusk weighting more than 10 kg. The ring of traffickers of various nationalities including Guinea, Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo and Mali with connections to other countries was crushed in a well organized series of arrests. First the three Malian

members were arrested in the act when trying to sell the ivory. They soon denounced their Guinea accomplice, who was arrested the same day. Two remaining gang members were arrested the next day after they were also denounced by their accomplices. The ring had several tentacles, well covering a large area of operation. One member operated in Angola, another in Point-Noire, and several of them organized trafficking the ivory between Congo and DRC, from where the ivory originated.

- 2 ivory traffickers, arrested in September with 35 kg of ivory, were sentenced to 3 years in prison and to pay over 6,000 USD in damages and fines each.

- The coordinator met with the EU Ambassador to discuss cooperation and support in ongoing cases of wildlife trafficking in Pointe-Noire.
- She met with several government officials: the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, Attorney General Procurer of Supreme Court, the Head of Police in point-Noir, Director of prison in point-Noir and others to discuss the corrupt behaviour of the judge in the case of the last operation, who enabled an ivory trafficker evade justice.
- A letter was sent to the Minister of Justice to call his attention to this case.
- Two legal advisers presented in a training of members of civil society and military officers on wildlife conservation.



6 significant ivory traffickers arrested with a tusk weighting more than 10 kg.

Gabon – AALF



An ivory trafficker was arrested with two elephant tails

- 2 ivory traffickers arrested with 3 tusks in the east of the country. One of them, a Chadian, is a repeat offender, One of them, a Chadian, is a repeat offender, who had already been arrested by PALF in Congo for ivory trafficking in 2013 and sentenced 5 years.. Together with his Gabonese accomplice they arrived into a town at night in an attempt to sell the contraband, but the team was already prepared and swiftly put them behind bars.
- Only 24 hours earlier in the same region another ivory trafficker was arrested with two elephant tails. He tried to resist arrest and escape but was caught by the arresting team. He refused to cooperate, but in the end revealed also information about ammunition, used for killing elephants.
- A Nigerian trafficker arrested with 2 tusks and

a fresh leopard skin in the north-east of the country, which is known as a crossroad for trafficking wildlife contraband. He spent several days in the town searching for clients and in the end was arrested in the act when he tried to sell the contraband.

- 3 ivory traffickers, arrested in November with 40 kg of ivory, were prosecuted, one sentenced to 3 months in prison, two others to 1.5 months. The prosecutor immediately appealed against the low sentences.
- The legal team of AALF assisted in a transfer of 26 ivory tusks and 61 ivory pieces, organized by the Ministry of Waters and Forests and the General Directorate of Forests and Protected Areas, from the court of the first instance in Libreville to the headquarters of ANPN, where the ivory was placed in a properly secured room.
- The AALF team started moving to a new, more spacious office, which will provide better condition for the work of the project.



A Nigerian trafficker arrested with 2 tusks and a fresh leopard skin

Republic of Guinea – GALF

- The Organizational Development Officer arrived to Guinea to support GALF team in training the coordinator in management and leadership, recruiting, testing and evaluation of personnel and investigations.
- The Financial officer arrived to Guinea to support the team in recruiting the accountant and audit the financial management of GALF and bring in improvements.
- A legal advisor from Guinea travelled to Ivory Coast to support post-arrest procedures with a Guinean ape trafficker, arrested there in the beginning of December.
- The coordinator met with the Ambassador of Germany to discuss with him the case of the Guinean ape trafficker arrested in Ivory Coast and to gain the support of the German Ambassador in Ivory Coast.
- He held more meetings, namely with the Focal Point from the Ministry of Environment, the Political Advisor of the US Ambassador, The focal point of Interpol and other officials to discuss the ongoing cases of wildlife crime.

Togo – TALFF

- The project is transitioning end of year from working through ANCE-Togo to an execution by EAGLE as an international NGO. TALFF will transition to EAGLE-Togo.

SENEGAL - SALF

- 3 wildlife traffickers arrested with 2 pelicans, 4 young ostriches, a yellow billed stork, a black kite, a crocodile and 5 spur-winged geese. The live animals trafficking ring operated since 2006 across Senegal, Gambia and Mauritania and is responsible for international trafficking of a great volume

of threatened species including live hyenas and lions. One of their phones include a long list of contacts of magistrates, governors, colonels, customs officers, enforcement officials and many others that probably served as a corrupt circle of complicity ensuring the impunity of this ring.

- The Financial Officer arrived to Senegal for a short mission to support the team in financial management, to evaluate the accountant and audit the financial management of SALF and bring in improvements.
- The team took the annual vacations in the second half of the month



3 wildlife traffickers arrested with 2 pelicans, 4 young ostriches, and more birds

Benin – AALF-B



The Minister of Life and Sustainable Development José Didier Tonta and the Coordinator Josea S. Dossou-Bodjrenou

- A trafficker arrested with 11 dwarf crocodile skins, python skins and other contraband. He was concealing the skins in a hotel, where he intended to sell it. Dwarf crocodiles are listed at the Appendix I of CITES, but their population is severely depleted as tens of thousands of them are hunted every year for meat and skin.
- 7 ivory traffickers arrested in October were sentenced to various penalties from 2 to 4 months in prison.

- The Collaboration Agreement between AALF-B and the Government of Benin, represented by the Minister in charge of wildlife was signed by the coordinator and the Minister at a small ceremony, after several years of negotiation and preparation.



A trafficker arrested with 11 dwarf crocodile skins,

- More meetings were held with the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister in charge of wildlife, with the Director of W National Park, the Technical Director of CENAGREF and prosecutors to discuss the cases of ivory trafficking.

Uganda - EAGLE Uganda



4 wildlife traffickers arrested and a giant pangolin rescued in the north of the country.



A trafficker arrested with 8.5 kg of giant pangolin scales.

- 2 significant traffickers arrested in West of the country with 135 kg of hippo teeth and two elephant tusks. Abel and the team cut short their an-



2 significant traffickers arrested with 135 kg of hippo teeth and two elephant tusks.

nual vacation to get these two behind bars. They both are long term criminals, trafficking ivory and other contraband for years. They worked as a team for the past 5 years, collecting and storing the hippo and elephant ivory in their village. They emptied their storage for this transaction as they were planning to move their illegal activity to Kenya. When the police and NRCN team surprised them in a hotel room with the contraband concealed in 2 bags, they resisted the arrest violently, but it did not stop the team from putting them behind bars.

- A trafficker arrested with 8.5 kg of giant pangolin scales. He is a member of a ring trafficking live pangolins and their scales as well as gold. He uses dealing in cereals,

beans and maize as a cover to traffic wildlife. He arrived from Northern Uganda to the capital city to sell the pangolin scales, but was arrested in act in a restaurant, where he wanted to sell the contraband.

- 4 wildlife traffickers arrested and a giant pangolin rescued in the north of the country. They intended to sell the pangolin in a hotel, and were arrested in act. The injured pangolin was transported to the wildlife centre in Murchison Falls National Park, where he got the proper veterinary care.
- One of the 3 traffickers arrested with 13 kg of ivory, 17 kg of pangolin scales and other contraband in October was prosecuted and sentenced to 1 year in prison. The two others, both pastors using the church activities to cover wildlife trafficking, still wait for the court decision.
- The Legal team followed a case of a Chinese trafficker and her accomplice, who were arrested in July by Uganda Wildlife Authority in possession of 870 kg of pangolin scales, hippo ivory and live leopard tortoises. EAGLE Uganda legal team is pushing to get the case to be processed to ensure that the traffickers will appear in court for trial.
- Recruitment process re-started to find an accountant and media officer.

Madagascar - ALARM

- A press conference was organized to mobilize public opinion and inform the international community about a provisional release of two traffickers sentenced to jail after lodging an appeal.
- The coordinator sent several letters to the Ambassadors to inform the international community about the release of two traffickers. The Ambassador of Germany responded favorably to our appeal and sent an official letter to the Minister of Justice and the Minister for Ecology, Environment and Forests to express his concern about this issue.
- The recruitment process continued, 2 more legal advisers and 2 more investigators started their test period.
- Meetings were held with several authorities, namely the General Director of the National Police, the General Inspectorate of the National Police, The Director of the Judicial Police and the Chief of the Police Brigade Criminelle to discuss a follow up of the arrests of tortoise traffickers.

Headquarters

- Ofir Drori participated as a trainer at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana. ILEA - the International Law Enforcement Academy is a US Government prestigious training program for enforcers from all over Africa. EAGLE has been asked to develop training on ethics and anti-corruption for ILEA's Wildlife Crime Course, which is being conducted for 7 years now.
- Danielle Mbui, the Financial Officer, conducted missions to Guinea and Senegal to support the teams in financial management, to evaluate the accountants and audit the financial management of SALF and GALF and help with recruitment of a new accountant for GALF.
- Jana Hajduchova, the Organizational Development Officer arrived to Guinea to support GALF team in training the coordinator in management and leadership, recruiting, testing and evaluation of personnel and investigations.
- Rens Ilgen, the super volunteer finished his training in Cameroon and arrived to Kenya where he continued his training programme.

International Media Coverage

- An article in National Geographic about EAGLE Uganda fighting the illegal trade with hippo ivory:
[Link to the article](#)

THE EAGLE Network

EAGLE: Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement, is a network of members across Africa, who are replicating effectively a program and operational model to undertake wildlife law enforcement, which is based on the LAGA-Cameroon model, trailed, practiced and tested since 2003. The EAGLE Network currently operates in nine African countries and keeps expanding.

The over-arching objective of the EAGLE Network is: *Developing civic activism and collaborating with governments and civil society to improve the application of national and international environmental legislation, through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent against the illegal*

trade in wildlife, timber and related criminal activities, including corruption.

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